Nagapattinam and Cuddalore Ports in Tamil Nadu

3213. SHRI R. KAMARAJ : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the importance of the Nagapattinam and Cuddalore ports in Tamil Nadu which are very much used to export fish and foodgrains to the neighbouring countries;

(b) whether Government will come forward to provide financial assistance for modernisation of these two ancient ports upto the international standards to increase the export activities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed financial allocation of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Major Ports are under the administrative control of the Central Government while other ports are under the domain of the respective State Governments. Thus, development/ modernisation of minor ports is within the ambit of the respective State Governments. Nagapattinam and Cuddalore are minor ports in Tamil Nadu and the responsibility of development/modernisation of these ports lies with the State Government of Tamil Nadu. At present there is no scheme to provide financial assistance for modernisation of minor ports.

New Insurance Agents for Government Ships

3214. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed some new insurance agents to insure Government ships;

(b) if so, the details of the newly appointed agents and the criteria adopted to select them; and

(c) how many ships have been insured by the newly appointed agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government does not appoint insurance agents.

(c) Does not arise.